



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY
B.A. Honours Part-III Examination, 2022

ENGLISH
PAPER: ENGA-VIII

Time Allotted: 4 Hours

Full Marks: 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.*

Candidates are required to answer Question No.1 compulsorily and choose one Option from Option-I (Indian Writing in English) and Option-II (American Literature).

The candidates should clearly mention the correct option on their respective answer scripts
Indian Writing in English OR American Literature.

1. Answer any **four** questions from the following: 5×4 = 20
- (a) Write a brief note on 'Orientalism' as applied in Postcolonial criticism.
 - (b) What is 'Ecriture Feminine'?
 - (c) Define the terms 'Langue' and 'Parole'.
 - (d) What does Marx mean by 'Class Struggle'?
 - (e) What are the basic tenets of Postmodernism?
 - (f) Explain the notion of 'hegemony' after Gramsci.

OPTION-I
(Indian Writing in English)
GROUP-A

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss how Sarojini Naidu's poem 'Caprice' explores the theme of abandonment and desertion.
 - (b) Critically analyse Jayanta Mahapatra's handling of pathos in the poem 'Hunger'.
 - (c) "Kamala Das's poem 'In love' is a study of the dehumanization of the decoupling of love and lust". — Discuss.
 - (d) Analyse Ezekiel's poem "Enterprise" as an allegorical poem.

GROUP-B

3. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Comment on the use of themes, motifs and symbols in Raja Rao's *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - (b) Discuss *The Serpent and the Rope* as a novel that deals with concepts of existence, reality and fulfillment of one's capabilities.

- (c) Comment on the narrative technique in *The Shadow Lines*.
- (d) Discuss Amitav Ghosh's treatment of the family as a social microcosm in *The Shadow Lines*.

GROUP-C

4. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Assess 'The Lost Child' as a typical Indian short story in English.
 - (b) Consider 'The Accompanist' by Anita Desai as an allegory and give reasons in support of your answer.
 - (c) Comment on the intricacies of the relationship in Chekov and Zulu by Salman Rushdie.
 - (d) Comment on the appropriateness of title 'A House and Two Goats'.

GROUP-D

5. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Comment critically on the title *Tara*.
 - (b) Comment on the role of Bharati in defining the life of Tara.
 - (c) Critically analyze the character of Sen Gupta in Currimbhoy's *The Refugee*.
 - (d) Discuss Currimbhoy's *The Refugee* as a play that deals with the refugee crisis of 1971.

GROUP-E

6. Locate and annotate any **one** from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) We noticed nothing as we went,
A straggling crowd of little hope,
Ignoring what the thunder meant,
Deprived of common needs like soap.
 - (b) For Terror is Thy name,
Death is in my breath,
And every shaking step
Destroys a world for ever.
 - (c) And Flora gave the lotus, "rose-red dyed"
"And lily-white", – the queenliest flower that blows.
 - (d) The mighty perish in their might,
The slain survive the slayer.
7. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Briefly describe how Brahminism is represented in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - (b) Comment briefly on the title of *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - (c) Comment briefly on the role of Ila in *The Shadow Lines*.
 - (d) What role does the riot play in the life of the narrator in *The Shadow Lines*?

8. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment on the stranger who tried to soothe the child in *The Lost Child*.
 - (b) Briefly describe the childhood days of the accompanist.
 - (c) What is the influence of the TV serial 'Star Trek' in the short story *Chekov and Zulu*?
 - (d) Comment briefly on the appropriateness of the title *A Horse and Two Goats*.
9. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Explain with reference to the context: "Forgive me, Tara, Forgive me for making it my tragedy".
 - (b) Briefly comment on the role of Dr. Thakkar in Tara.
 - (c) Explain with reference to the context: "You're welcome. As friends and neighbours, you're welcome".
 - (d) Briefly analyse the role of Mita in Asif Currimbhoy's 'The Refugee'.

OPTION-II

(American Literature)

GROUP-A

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Attempt a critical appreciation of the form and imagery of Emily Dickinson's poem 'Because I could not stop for Death'.
 - (b) Comment on Walt Whitman's descriptive power with reference to the poem, 'Crossing Brooklyn Ferry'.
 - (c) Analyse the symbols and imagery in Robert Frost's 'Desert Places'.
 - (d) Critically comment on the images in Bob Dylan's 'How many roads must a man walk down'.
3. Explain and annotate any **one** from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) We slowly drove— He knew no haste
And I had put away
My labor and my leisure too,
For his civility.
 - (b) Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
 - (c) I have it in me so much nearer home
To scare myself with my own desert places.

GROUP-B

4. Attempt any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) *The Great Gatsby* is a consummate summary of the 'roaring twenties' and a devastating depiction of the shallowness of the 'Jazz Age'. Critically examine Fitzgerald's novel in the light of this view.
 - (b) Critically analyse the symbols in *The Great Gatsby*.
 - (c) How has Alice Walker portrayed the Southern Black community in *The Color Purple*?

(d) Critically analyse the portrayal of women characters in *The Color Purple*.

5. Answer briefly any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5

- (a) What rumours have been told about Gatsby? Why does F. Scott Fitzgerald use rumours rather than facts?
- (b) Compare and contrast Wilson and Gatsby. Who is Nick more sympathetic to?
- (c) How would you describe the relationship between Mr. _____ and his father, and the relationship between Harpo and Mr. _____?
- (d) Narrate the circumstances that lead Celie to start her own business.

GROUP-C

6. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15

- (a) Comment on the role of fate in Hawthorne's 'The Ambitious Guest'.
- (b) What impression do you form of the character of Trysdale as depicted in 'The Cactus'?
- (c) Kate Chopin's 'Regret' develops the idea that Mamzelle Aurélie 'lacks that important part of a woman's life, the maternal relationship'. — Do you agree? Discuss the theme of motherhood.
- (d) How does Poe explore the theme of disguise in 'The Cask of Amontillado'?

7. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5

- (a) 'The secret of the young man's character was, a high and abstracted ambition.'— Locate and explain.
- (b) Why does the narrator in 'The Cactus' pretend to know Spanish?
- (c) Describe in brief how the children disturbed Mamzelle Aurélie's household in 'Regret'.

GROUP-D

8. Attempt any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15

- (a) How has Arthur Millen portrayed the character of Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*?
- (b) How does *Death of a Salesman* reflect the crisis in American society? Elucidate.

9. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5

- (a) Willy and Biff have different explanations for Biff's failure to succeed in the business world. What are they and how are these explanations different?
- (b) Explain "Nothing is planted. I don't have a thing in the ground."

N.B. : Students have to complete submission of their Answer Scripts through E-mail / Whatsapp to their own respective colleges on the same day / date of examination within 1 hour after end of exam. University / College authorities will not be held responsible for wrong submission (at in proper address). Students are strongly advised not to submit multiple copies of the same answer script.

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